(b) Touch-screen info kiosks have been provided at Bangalore City, Kormagala (Bangalore), Banasankari (Bangalore) and Indra Nagar (Bangalore) in State of Karnataka.

(c) It is proposed to be introduced at Mysore.

Family Planning Programmes

*450. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Draft National Population Policy is bereft of health infrastructure, in terms of inadequate contraceptive services, specialists and trained manpower and funding; and

(b) if so, the action proposed to allocate more funds to run more health sub-centres to achieve success of the family planning programme?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) and (b) The National Population Policy 2000 has specified that meeting unmet needs for contraception, health care infrastructure and health personnel and provision of integrated service delivery are the immediate objectives. Some of the operational strategies to achieve these objectives have been identified as follows :—

(i) Strengthening of the community health centres, primary health centres and sub-centres.

(ii) Strengthening of skills of health personnel and health providers.

(iii) Maintenance at district and sub-district levels, block-wise database of private medical practitioners whose credentials may be certified by the Indian Medical Association. The possibility of accrediting these private practitioners for a year at a time, and assigning to each a satellite population, not exceeding 5000 population, for when they provide reproductive and child health services will be explored.

(iv) Reviving the earlier system of the licensed medical practitioners who, after appropriate certificate from the Indian Medical Association, may participate in the provisional of clinical services.

(v) Involving the non-medical fraternity in counselling and advocacy so as to demystify the national family welfare efforts.

In addition to the ongoing Government funding towards population stabilisation, a National Population Stabilisation Fund with a seed money of Rs. 100 crore has been proposed to be set up to specifically aid projects designed to contribute\to population stabilisation efforts inclusive of projects for urban slums. Additionally, funds for supplies and equipment essential for meeting the unmet need for contraception could be provided through re-appropriation within existing allocations or by additional resources being made available.

Revision of Royalty Rates of Minerals

*451. SHRIVIKRAMVERMA:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a growing demand by various States for revision of royalty rates of different minerals;

(b) if so, the details of demand made in various fora / representations received from different States in that regard;

(c) the action initiated thereon; and

(d) by when the new royalty rates of these minerals would be announced?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHTNDS A): (a) to (d) Under the provisions of Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act), the Central Government may amend the Second Schedule to the Act so as to enhance or reduce the rates at which royalty shall be payable in respect of major minerals (minerals other than minor minerals defined under Section 3(e) of the MMDR Act) with effect from such date, as may be specified in the notification, provided that Central Government shall not enhance the rates of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years, the State Government approach the Central Government from time to time for revising the rates of royalty on minerals. While revising the rates of royalty on minerals as per provisions of the MMDR Act, 1957, *inter-alia,* the suggestions of the State Governments are considered by the Government.

The provisions of MMDR Act do not stipulate any specific periodicity for carrying out revision of royalty rates. The rates of royalty for major minerals (other than coal and lignite) were last revised by the Government in 1997.